

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION/ FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES

PROGRAM PROFILE

Goal	To exclude Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and other foreign animal diseases (FAD) from the U.S. and to proactively identify emerging animal diseases, thereby protecting the biological and commercial health of the \$87 billion livestock and poultry industries.
Enabling Legislation	21 USC 114; PL 80-8; Act of February 28, 1947, amended by PL 92-152, on November 5, 1971.
Economic Significance	The program protects 100 million head of cattle, 61 million head of swine, 8 million head of goat and sheep and an unknown number of susceptible wildlife from FMD and other foreign animal diseases and permits the U.S. to benefit from global agricultural trade. FMD is one of the most costly multi-host animal diseases. Should FMD enter the United States, a 15-year loss of more than \$20 billion could occur, mainly in the form of increased consumer costs for animal product, reduced productivity of livestock, cost of vaccinations, and restrictions on international trade. Should FMD enter Panama or Central America, they would have proportionately comparable losses and the risk to United States livestock would be greatly increased. Also, due to the prevailing economic situation in Central America, the United States would have to finance eradication activities if an outbreak occurs there. Other foreign animal diseases, such as avian influenza, also threaten the approximately 15.5 million tons of poultry produced annually in the United States.
Principal Approach And Methods Used to Achieve Goals	APHIS, through cooperative programs with the Countries of Mexico, Colombia and Panama, excluded FMD and other foreign animal diseases in key foreign countries, thereby protecting the biological and commercial health of domestic animal production industries. These cooperative programs concentrate on prevention, eradication, and control. Program methods used are surveillance, disease investigation, inspection, quarantine, depopulation, vaccination, and emergency preparedness. The Mexico program conducts prevention activities for all FAD

including African horse sickness, African swine fever, and avian influenza. Activities in the Panama program include active field surveillance in the border area and the high-risk Panamanian ports. The Mexico and Panama programs maintain high containment diagnostic laboratories for these diseases. The Colombia program maintains a sanitary barrier between FMD endemic areas and the FMD-free areas of the northern region. The barrier serves as the first line of defense by controlling and eradicating the disease from Colombia to prevent it from entering Panama, Central America, Mexico, and the United States. It's one of two in the world; the other, in Turkey, is maintained by the European Union to protect Western Europe from FMD.

APHIS collaborates with foreign animal health officials and international organizations including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the International Regional Plant and Animal Health Organization (OIRSA), and the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. These partnerships increase the knowledge of local professional and animal health officials in export and import requirements and development of animal health and quarantine infrastructures.

History

Cooperative agreements were established with Mexico in 1952, with Colombia in 1973, and with Panama in 1974. In FY 1987, the Colombia cooperative program was expanded to encompass the territory up to the Magdalena and Cauca Rivers. APHIS maintains cooperative FMD prevention agreements, using surveillance, disease investigation, and emergency preparedness with Mexico, Panama, and all of the Central American countries. In FY 1997, the Colombia cooperative program established guidelines for integrating eradication activities with the PAHO and World Health Organization plan to eradicate FMD from the Western Hemisphere.

State and Local Cooperation

No State funding. APHIS provides financial and technical assistance to the Colombia FMD control program in a 50/50 cost share program with the Colombian Agriculture Institute (ICA). Since FY 1995, organizations of Colombian cattle producers have steadily increased their monetary contributions to supplement the FMD eradication program and have agreed to cover the costs and

responsibility of vaccinations in program areas. The Panama-United States Foot-and-Mouth commission (COPFA) is supported by the United States, 90 percent, and Panama, 10 percent. The Mexico-United States FMD and Other Exotic Animal Diseases Commission (EADC) is supported by the United States, 80 percent, and Mexico, 20 percent.

Involvement of Other Agencies

Agricultural Research Service does research on FMD vaccines and test antigens. Also Colorado State University conducts research on Vesicular Stomatitis in conjunction with the University of Costa Rica.

RESOURCE DATA

-----Obligations-----					
	<u>Direct</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>	<u>User Fees</u>	<u>Staff-Years</u>	
FY 1996	4,131,429	--	--	5	
FY 1997	3,995,743	--	--	13	
FY 1998	3,941,903	--	--	9	
FY 1999	3,637,849	--	--	9	
FY 2000 (est.)	3,803,000	--	--	10	
FY 2001 (est.)	3,803,000		--	10	
					Contingency
	<u>APHIS</u>	<u>Coop</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>CCC</u>	<u>Fund</u>
Cum. (FY 99)	71,843,767	31,151,452	102,995,219	--	--

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Panama and Central America

The US-Panama Cooperative Program for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COPFA) continues to maintain the Darien Gap area of Panama free from FMD and other foreign animal diseases. Activities included active field surveillance at high-risk border points, annual training, scientific analysis of technical data and improved program infrastructure. In FY 1999, COPFA also continued to support the Investigative Laboratory for Vesicular Disease (LADIVES) which provides biocontainment, diagnostic and detection capabilities for vesicular and other foreign animal diseases in the Central America. In FY 1999, the

program conducted 376 vesicular disease investigations in Panama and another 644 in Central America.

Colombia

APHIS still maintains the FMD-free area along the Colombia-Panama border. This maintenance area serves as the "first line of defense" for preventing the spread of FMD northward into Panama, Central America, Mexico, and the United States. APHIS provided financial and technical assistance to the cooperative FMD control program in a 50/50 cost share program with the Colombian Agriculture Institute (ICA). Colombia and the Colombian livestock sector continue to provide funding to the field program above the 50/50 cost share. Based on recommendations from PAHO and other stakeholders, ICA and APHIS expanded the FMD program to areas along the Venezuelan border, substantially reducing the risk of FMD introduction into Panama and FMD-free areas in Colombia. We will measure the success of this program by the gradual increase in the FMD-free areas in Colombia, which in turn increases the protection provided to Panama, Central America, Mexico, and the United States. Until FMD is eradicated from the Western Hemisphere, maintenance of this barrier will prevent the disease's northward spread. To safeguard against introduction of FMD, the program investigated suspicious vesicular diseases and quarantined areas that tested positive for FMD. In FY 1999, the program conducted 456 vesicular disease investigations, resulting in 54 quarantines for FMD. Substantial progress has been made in South America. In April 1999, the government of Argentina discontinued the FMD vaccination campaign after 5 years with no outbreaks. However, outbreaks may still occur in other South American and Central American countries and they must act quickly to prevent possible spread.

The Colombia program is an important component of APHIS' exclusion activities overseas. However, our exclusion objectives in the region will continue to shift from maintaining a static barrier in Colombia to supporting the PAHO plan to eradicate FMD throughout the western hemisphere.

The Hemispheric plan is based on the bordering countries of Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela working

together to eradicate FMD. APHIS still gives priority to components of the plan which focus on efforts to control endemic FMD hot zones which threaten the FMD-free area along the Colombia-Panama border. Our support of this process has been crucial to the success of the initial steps of the Hemispheric plan in the Andean area. Successfully eradicating FMD from Colombia will further reduce risks to the United States industry, which benefits from this regional approach to FMD eradication.

Mexico

APHIS and the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, through the Exotic Animal Disease Commission (EADC), have continued their successful exclusion of FMD and other foreign animal diseases. The program conducts laboratory diagnostic and field detection activities to provide rapid detection and effective surveillance of FMD and other foreign animal diseases, and training and public education to communicate animal disease prevention measures. In FY 1998, EADC processed 257,378 laboratory samples for exotic animal disease investigations and conducted 32 vesicular disease investigations.

Cooperative FMD Agreements

APHIS also has cooperative agreements with all Central American countries to support joint monitoring and surveillance activities including field investigations and collection of lab samples for FMD and other foreign animal diseases. For example, APHIS studies Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) epidemiology in Central America, Mexico, and South America to assure VSV exclusion from the U.S. and to predict future domestic VSV outbreaks. Through these agreements, APHIS also helps transfer surveillance and detection technologies to the cooperating countries.